

# *To Kill a Mockingbird: Theme*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

**Theme** is the central idea or message in a work of literature. Most themes are not completely obvious and must be inferred by the reader. A reader must take a good look at the entire novel: the title, plot, characters, setting, and mood, which all work together to reveal the themes in a piece of literature.

**Directions:** For each of the following themes from the novel, find an appropriate **incident and supporting quotation** from the novel that best exemplifies or illustrates that particular theme. You may choose your incident and supporting quotation from anywhere in the text. The quotation must connect to the incident. **Include the page number** for each quotation.

1. Theme: *Prejudice is a disease with deep and far-reaching roots.*

Incident and Quotation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Theme: *Before one can judge someone, he or she must walk a mile in his shoes.*

Incident and Quotation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Theme: *Racism is kept alive through fear and ignorance.*

Incident and Quotation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Theme: *True courage is not the absence of fear, but the willingness to proceed in spite of it.*

Incident and Quotation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Theme: *What one sees is not always the truth.*

Incident and Quotation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# *To Kill a Mockingbird*: Theme

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapters 29-31:** To continue your analysis of theme in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, complete the following exercise.

**Directions:** *For each example below, think about the title, plot, setting, and mood of the novel to answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

1. How does Scout change throughout the story? What general realizations or understandings about the world and the nature of human beings does she discover?

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2. What interesting objects, characters, or names hint toward a larger meaning in the story? What is the significance of the name “Boo” or the nickname “Scout”? What about the idea of “killing a mockingbird”? Of what could the mockingbird be a symbol? Explain.

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3. Harper Lee, the author, makes many observations about life and human nature through the speech and thoughts of several characters. Examine Atticus’s final speech in the courtroom (Chapter 20). What are Lee’s views or struggles with life and human nature as seen in Atticus’s final speech? Give examples from the text of the speech that supports these views.

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4. After answering these questions, you should be able to make several **general** statements about human beings and their actions. Write down **three themes** that are **clearly presented in the novel**.

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